

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously presented): A powder composition comprising at least one fat-soluble vitamin dispersed in a matrix consisting of an emulsion-forming composition selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide gum, a mixture of polysaccharide gums, a protein, a mixture of proteins, and mixtures thereof, wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the form of solid droplets having an average diameter of about 80 to about 120 nanometers (nm) and wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the amount of from about 10% to about 30% by weight.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide gum is isolated from the group consisting of plants, animals and microbial sources.

Claim 4. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of exudate gums, seaweed gums, seed gums, microbial gums, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of gum arabic, flaxseed gum, ghatti gum, tamarind gum, arabinogalactan, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 5 wherein the polysaccharide gum is gum arabic.

Claim 7. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the protein is isolated from a plant or an animal source.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A powder composition according to claim 7 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of sunflower proteins, soy-bean proteins, cotton seed proteins, peanut proteins, rape seed proteins, milk proteins, blood proteins, egg proteins, ~~acetylated derivatives thereof~~, gelatine, crosslinked gelatine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 8 wherein the protein is gelatine.

Claim 10. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E or its esters, vitamin A or its esters, vitamin K (phytomenadione), vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol), and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 10 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E acetate, vitamin A acetate, vitamin A palmitate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:99 to about 3:1.

Claim 13. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 12 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:8 to 1:1.

Claim 14. (Previously presented): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 10 to about 30 % by weight of a fat-soluble vitamin and from about 60 to 85% by weight of a matrix component, based on the total weight of all the components present in the composition.

Claim 15. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 14 wherein the composition has a moisture content of about 1-4% by weight.

Application No.: 09/726,880
Response Dated: December 24, 2008
Response to Office Action of: June 27, 2008

Claim 16. (Withdrawn).

Claim 17. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1, which is formed into a tablet.

Claims 18-27. (Withdrawn).